

SECRET

Security Information

26 November 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: CPP

SUBJECT : PSB Staff Meeting, 26 November 1952

1. Discussion at the PSB Staff Meeting of 26 November evolved principally around:

a. Czech trials;

b. Program of the West to rehabilitate escapees and successfully exploit them in the psychological field.

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4. The discussion

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4. The discussion evolved around the need for the West to expand and sustain a program for escapees which went beyond mere intelligence utilization but included a program of resettlement, social rehabilitation, operational use, and psychological exploitation. The word has apparently filtered back behind the Iron Curtain that defectors or escapees received little consideration beyond being sponged and, therefore, there was no future for them in the free world—it has had adverse impact upon the sustained defector flow. It was pointed out that after the return of Barsov the flow practically diminished across the zonal border of Austria. Mr. Godel, of Defense, indicated that their Department was coming to closer grips with this situation in the consideration of utilization of escapees in labor battalions and for useful practical purposes; that they were working out with State a means of giving greater publicity to PEP (President's Escapee Program) in an effort to meet the criticism of long segregation of refugees without integration of them into a constructive utilization or operational program. It was acknowledged that the problem was difficult and delicate, but that its psychological impact was great. Admiral Kirk indicated he wanted the Staff to give some study to this problem and that he, himself, intended to evaluate it. He had had a corroboration of some of the criticism from contacts in the "Fighting Friends for Russian Freedom" and in a recent conversation with [redacted] ATOTHR [redacted]

STATOTHR [redacted]

5. (The following information was of a strictly person-to-person nature, and Admiral Kirk did not desire it to be disseminated in any wide degree.) [redacted] indicated that the defector stream had trickled to practically nothing; that there were 1500 of the Vlasov group still shifting about who were scared to death they might be forced into repatriation.

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6. Mr. John Sherman has severed his connections with the PSB as of this date, and [redacted]; in addition to his present assignment, will become Acting Chief of Coordination.

7. The next formal Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for 18 December.

SIGNED

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[redacted]
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